

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1959.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. M.S. Porcher (Ag.)  
The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.  
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,  
Minister of Trade and Industry.  
The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Community Development and Education.  
The Honourable E.B. Beharry,  
Minister of Natural Resources.  
The Honourable Janet Jagan,  
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.  
The Honourable Ram Karran,  
Minister of Communications and Works.

Elected Members, Majority Party

Mr. F. Bowman  
Mr. B.S. Rai  
Mr. S.M. Saffee  
Mr. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall  
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham  
Mr. S. Campbell  
Mr. A.L. Jackson

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj  
Mr. R.E. Davis  
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard  
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent:

Mr. Jai Narine Singh.  
Mr. R.C. Tello - on leave.  
Mr. A.M. Fredericks - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 11th of March, 1959, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that Mr. Tello had been granted leave from that day to the 10th of April, 1959, to attend a Conference in Geneva.

PAPERS LAID

By Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Chairman, Public Petitions Committee:

Report of the Public Petitions Committee on a Petition tabled by Mr. R.C. Tello, Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held on Thursday, the 12th of February, 1959, for and on behalf of Mr. Rudolph Melville and Others, praying that the proposed increase in the excise duty on beer should not be approved by the Legislative Council.

(LEG. 13/56(3))(Circulated).

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - Second and Third Readings.

Item 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959 - Bill No. 7/1959.

Council resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE.

Mr. Hubbard concluded his speech.

After the Financial Secretary had replied, the question was put and the motion affirmed.

The Bill was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - Short Title - was passed as printed.

Clauses 2 and 3 - were passed as printed.

SCHEDULE - (i) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 053-04, Fruit juices, unfermented, whether frozen or not (including syrups and natural fruit flavours) was negatived.

SCHEDULE (contd.)

- (ii) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 053-04.2, Grapefruit juice in airtight containers, was negatived on the following division:-

| <u>FOR</u>   | <u>AGAINST</u>          |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Jackson  | Mr. Tasker              |
| Mr. Campbell | Mr. Hubbard             |
| Mr. Burnham  | Mr. Saffee              |
| Mr. Kendall  | Mr. Rai                 |
|              | Mr. Bowman              |
|              | Mr. Ram Karran          |
|              | Mrs. Jagan              |
|              | Mr. Benn                |
|              | The Financial Secretary |
|              | The Chief Secretary     |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>10</u>               |

- (iii) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the substitution of the amount "\$1.00" for the amount "\$3.00" under the heading "Preferential Tariff", and of the amount "\$2.06" for the amount "\$3.06" under the heading "General Tariff" in respect of the item 054-01, Potatoes not including sweet potatoes, was negatived on the following division:-

| <u>FOR</u>   | <u>AGAINST</u>          |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Jackson  | Mr. Tasker              |
| Mr. Campbell | Mr. Hubbard             |
| Mr. Burnham  | Mr. Ajodha Singh        |
| Mr. Kendall  | Mr. Saffee              |
|              | Mr. Rai                 |
|              | Mr. Bowman              |
|              | Mr. Ram Karran          |
|              | Mrs. Jagan              |
|              | Mr. Benn                |
|              | Dr. Jagan               |
|              | The Financial Secretary |
|              | The Chief Secretary     |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>12</u>               |

- (iv) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 552-01.4, Cosmetics: Toilet preparations except soaps (e.g. powder, rouge, lipstick, hair dyes, bath salts, deodorants, etc.) was negatived.
- (v) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 732-01.1, Motor cars (not exceeding 3,000 lb. in weight) was negatived.
- (vi) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of item 732-02, Motor cycles, complete (cc) (including all types motorized cycles) and side cars complete, was negatived on the following division:-

SCHEDULE (contd.)

| <u>FOR</u>  | <u>AGAINST</u>          |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Jackson | Mr. Campbell            |
| Mr. Burnham | Mr. Ajodha Singh        |
| Mr. Kendall | Mr. Saffee              |
|             | Mr. Rai                 |
|             | Mr. Bowman              |
|             | Mr. Ram Karran          |
|             | Dr. Jagan               |
|             | The Financial Secretary |
|             | The Attorney-General    |
| <u>3</u>    | <u>9</u>                |

(vii) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 864-01, Watches, watch movements, cases and other parts of watches, was negatived on the following division:-

| <u>FOR</u>   | <u>AGAINST</u>          |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Jackson  | Mr. Ajodha Singh        |
| Mr. Campbell | Mr. Saffee              |
| Mr. Burnham  | Mr. Rai                 |
| Mr. Kendall  | Mr. Bowman              |
|              | Dr. Jagan               |
|              | The Financial Secretary |
|              | The Attorney-General    |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>7</u>                |

(viii) A motion by Mr. Burnham for the deletion of the item 864-02, Clocks, clock movements, was negatived on the following division:-

| <u>FOR</u>   | <u>AGAINST</u>          |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. Jackson  | Mr. Ajodha Singh        |
| Mr. Campbell | Mr. Saffee              |
| Mr. Burnham  | Mr. Rai                 |
| Mr. Kendall  | Mr. Bowman              |
|              | Mr. Beharry             |
|              | Mr. Benn                |
|              | Dr. Jagan               |
|              | The Financial Secretary |
|              | The Attorney-General    |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>9</u>                |

(ix) A motion by Mr. Jackson for the deletion of the item 899-13.3, Household brooms and brushes, was negatived.

Thereafter, the Schedule was passed as printed.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

BILL - Second Reading.Item 2 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959 - Bill No. 6/1959.

Mr. Burnham intimated that he proposed to give notice of a motion for the consideration of the Report of the Public Petitions Committee which he had tabled that day.

In view of this, he sought leave for deferment of the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Bill.

Council was considering the request when the sitting was suspended.

Suspension of Sitting - Tea Interval.

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended for a short tea interval.

Resumption of Sitting.

At 5.00 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Burnham's request was further considered and after the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General had expressed their views against the request for the debate to be deferred, the Speaker ruled as follows:-

That at the meeting held on Tuesday, 10th March, 1959, the debate on the second reading of the Bill was deferred at the request of Mr. Burnham to enable the Public Petitions Committee to conclude consideration of and to report on the petition tabled in Council on the 12th February, 1959.

As the prayer of the petition concerned the excise duty on beer in clause 3 of the Bill, it did not appear necessary for Council to give separate consideration to the Report of the Committee. The Report was short and Members could therefore avail themselves of the opportunity to express their views on the Committee's recommendation during the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Bill. However, leave would be granted if a Member moved a motion for the Report to be read.

On a motion by Mr. Campbell seconded by Mr. Davis the Report was read.

Council resumed the debate on the motion.

Mr. Campbell spoke to the motion.

Mr. Jackson was speaking when the hour fixed for the adjournment was reached.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 13th of March, 1959.

Confirmed,

*Donald Jackson*

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.  
13th March, 1959.